

HEARTLAND'S
WIDE LENS

PAGE 8



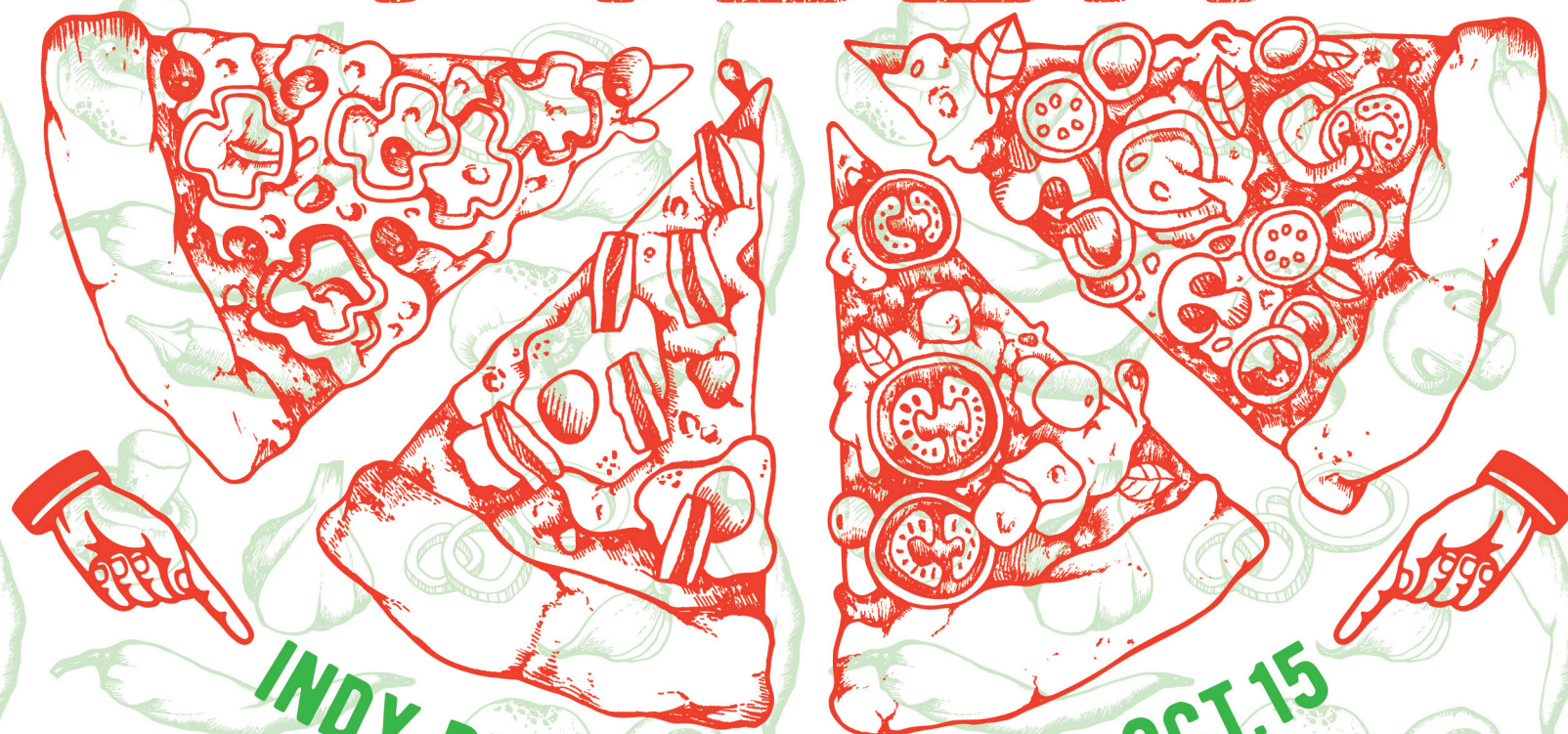
SIRIUS BLVCK
IS BACK

PAGE 17

Indy's **alternative** voice

INDY'S BEST

PIZZA



INDY PIZZA WEEK STARTS OCT.15

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FEMALE-CENTRIC FILMS AT HEARTLAND

// BY LAURA MCPHEE



BAHAMAS DIGS DEEPER ON 'EARTHTONES'

// BY SETH JOHNSON

IN THIS ISSUE

INDY'S BEST PIZZA

By Nuvo Editors

BARFLY 20
FREE WILL ASTROLOGY 23

ONLINE NOW

NUVO MIDTERM VOTERS GUIDE

By Rob Burgess

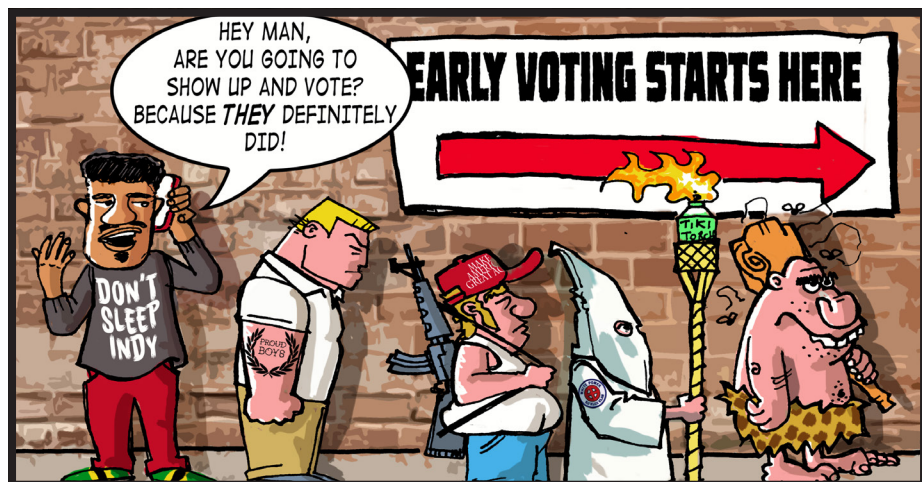
NEXT WEEK

THE VICTOR EFFECT

By Seth Johnson

GADFLY

BY WAYNE BERTSCH



Want to see more Gadfly? Visit nuvo.net/gadfly for all of them.

THE Q:

If you could have any local pizza delivered to you for lunch today, what would it be?



Erika Anderson

FACEBOOK

Jockamo Cheese Louise



Ryan Beuoy

TWITTER

Bazbeaux or Ale Emporium



Nacole Swenson

TWITTER

Primanti Bros.

// NUVO STAFF



Laura McPhee

EDITOR

lmcphee@nuvo.net

@thelauramcphee

Margherita at Bazbeaux



Dan Grossman

ARTS EDITOR

dgrossman@nuvo.net

@nuvoartsdan

Napoli from Bazbeaux



Rob Burgess

NEWS EDITOR

rburgess@nuvo.net

@robaburg

Pizzology



Seth Johnson

MUSIC EDITOR

sjohnson@nuvo.net

@sethvthem

Bazbeaux or Jockamo



Ian McPhee

SYSTEM ADMIN

ian@nuvo.net

Dessert Pizza from Pizza Hut



Charlie Clark*

PRODUCTION MANAGER

cclark@nuvo.net

Noble Romans



Haley Ward

PHOTOGRAPHY //

ADVERTISING DESIGNER

hward@nuvo.net

Pizza King to share with Will McCarty



Mercer Suppiger

EDITORIAL DESIGNER

msuppiger@nuvo.net

Jockamo's Cheese Louise



La'Tia Smith

SALES //

MARKETING ASSISTANT

lsmith@nuvo.net

BBQ pizza from Jockamo



Nathan Gonzalez

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

317.808.4603

ngonzalez@nuvo.net

Blaze Pizza



Trice Rias-Thompson

ASST. SALES MANAGER

317.808.4608

triesthompson@nuvo.net

Goodfellas



Kathy Flahavin

BUSINESS MANAGER

kflahavin@nuvo.net

Bazbeaux



Kevin McKinney

PUBLISHER

kmckinney@nuvo.net

Bazbeaux

FILM EDITOR: Ed Johnson-Ott, **CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:** David Hoppe, **CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS:** Wayne Bertsch, Mark Sheldon, Mark A. Lee, **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Rita Kohn, Kyle Long, Dan Savage, Renee Sweany, Mark A. Lee, Alan Sculley
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MAILING ADDRESS: 3951 N. Meridian St., Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46208
TELEPHONE: (317) 254-2400
FAX: (317) 254-2405 **WEB:** nuvo.net

HARRISON ULLMANN
(1935-2000) Editor (1993-2000)
ANDY JACOBS JR. (1932-2013)
Contributing (2003-2013)

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WHEN 'REVEAL' VIDEOS GO WRONG

BY ROB BURGESS // RBURGESS@NUVO.NET

If you watch local news or YouTube videos you're probably already familiar with the concept of "gender reveal" videos. In these clips, expectant parents find creative ways to tell the world whether their child appears to be a boy or a girl. Some people bite into blue or pink cupcakes, while others use clouds of colored powder.

In this area I have very little leeway with which to mock others. I, myself have been the co-star in our own sex reveal video directed by my wife, Ash. She, along with our son, Harper, and I revealed the sex of our daughter, Emerald, by popping a balloon with pink confetti inside.

But, there are times people take things too far. People like Mike "T-Mike, the Gator King" Kliebert of Ponchatoula, Louisiana; an alligator wrangler, trainer, and tour guide.

"In a video posted on Facebook, Kliebert opens the jaws of an alligator and waits to be handed something about the size of a bowling ball," reported Susan Roesgen of WGNO-TV on March 27. "As friends and family cheer him on, Kliebert puts the ball into the gator's mouth and lets the beast chomp down. In a split second, the gator's jaws burst through the 'ball'—which was actually a hollowed out watermelon. And, to the delight of the crowd, gobs of [blue] Jell-O fly out of the gator's mouth."

Luckily for the children and adults who were milling about near the deadly predator, no one was injured. But, after what happened in Arizona last year, I'm going

to have to ask other parents-to-be to take a giant step back from the increasingly elaborate nature of these videos.

Off-duty Border Patrol Agent Dennis Dickey was ordered Sept. 28 to pay \$220,000 in restitution and serve five years probation after he pleaded guilty in federal court to a misdemeanor charge of causing a fire without a permit.

"Nearly 800 firefighters from various agencies battled the Sawmill Fire for about a week in April 2017, at a cost of about \$8.2 million," reported Ron Medvescek of the Arizona Daily Star. "The wildfire began when Dickey shot a target that contained Tannerite, an explosive substance designed to detonate when shot by a high-velocity firearm, U.S. Forest Service Special Agent Brent Robinson wrote in an affidavit filed Sept. 20 in U.S. District Court. The explosion was caught on film by a witness."

And why will Dickey be borrowing \$100,000 from his retirement fund to pay the initial installment this week?

"The explosive target was part of a celebration of his wife's pregnancy and contained colored powder to show the gender of their baby, blue for a boy or pink for a girl," Dickey's attorney Sean Chapman told Medvescek.

So, parents, I'm pleading with you: If you find yourself atop a World War II tank ready to hit record, like a young couple in Minnesota did last week, pause for a moment to consider what might go wrong. ■

An off-duty Border Patrol agent in Arizona was ordered to pay \$220,000 after his video started a destructive wildfire.

GHOST STORIES at Crown Hill Cemetery

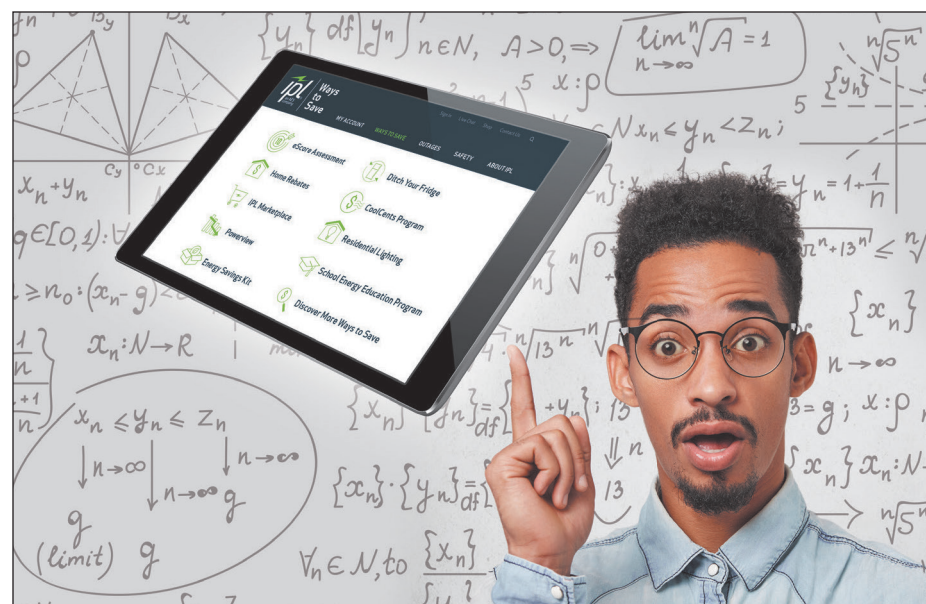
October 13, 2018

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NEWS

2018 MIDTERM VOTERS GUIDE

Research Candidates, Follow Coverage, Ask Questions, Get Answers

BY **ROB BURGESS** // RBURGESS@NUVO.NET

This week we are happy to announce our 2018 Midterm Voters Guide is live on NUVO.net. We're excited for you to check out the fruits of all our hard work. It's important to us that you have all the information you need to be able to vote on Nov. 6, and that you're able to make informed choices on the ballot.

For the past month, we've been collecting your questions for candidates on the topics that matter to you. By now, all the candidates have received those questions, and we've received many responses already from them, and await others.

Candidates should be aware that since early voting at satellite locations in Marion County begins on Oct. 26, the absolute last day we will accept submissions is Oct. 24.

If you are a candidate and haven't received your questionnaire, please contact News Editor Rob Burgess by email at rburgess@nuvo.net. We want to include as many candidates on the ballot this year as we possibly can.

SOME RACES READY FOR YOUR INSPECTION:

- Indiana House District 86: Rep. Edward DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, is running unopposed.
- Indiana House District 87: Rep. Carey Hamilton, D-Indianapolis, faces off against challenger Paula Finch.
- Indiana House District 94: Rep. Cherrish

Pryor, D-Indianapolis, is running unopposed.

- Indiana House District 97: After being first elected in 2012, this is the second time, after 2014, Rep. Justin Moed, D-Indianapolis, has no opponent.

- Indiana Senate District 29: Incumbent Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, is once again facing Democratic challenger J.D. Ford.

- Marion County Prosecutor: Democrat Terry R. Curry is seeking a third term

as Prosecuting Attorney of Marion County. He is running against Republican challenger Benjamin D. Strahm.

- Marion County Sheriff: Republican

Brian K. Durham and Democrat Kerry Joseph Forestal are running for the open Marion County Sheriff seat.

Which brings us to the other exciting announcement: We're now gathering your questions about the election and how to vote in Indiana. You might want to know: Can I vote early? Do I need ID to vote? What will the switch from precincts to central voting centers look like? If you are wondering anything about the voting process or related to the election, ask us.

Here's how it works: You submit your questions at nuvo.net/citycommittee/votersguide. (We may get in touch with you to learn more about your question.) Bookmark that page and check back for the answers in the future.

Happy voting! **N**



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TRUMP WHISTLEBLOWER CONTINUES TO SPEAK OUT

Joel Clement First Official to Publicly Criticize Administration

BY ROB BURGESS // RBURGESS@NUVO.NET

Imagine you were a government employee, and an administration hostile to everything you worked for your entire career suddenly ascended to power.

Would you stay quiet, keep your head down, and say nothing while you try to minimize the damage?

Or, would you file a complaint and then publicly resign?

For Joel Clement this was no thought experiment. Though he is now a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, this was the choice he faced in 2017 after seven years as an executive at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

“These are the scientists, experts, institutional knowledge holders that make the agencies tick. They’re the ones kind of keeping democracy on the tracks right now,” he told a crowd of about two dozen Thursday at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

“Many of them face the decision every day that I faced. Which is, ‘Is today the day that I raise my hand and say, ‘No this is not right?’ Or, is today the day I’m going to choke it back because if I don’t do this work who will?’ I respect the decision whichever way they go.”

Clement was in town last week to address the Environmental, Energy and Natural Resources Law Program and the Environmental Resilience Institute. Clement began his presentation after a short introduction from his host, Gabriel Filippelli, professor of Earth Sciences and director for the Center for Urban Health.

“The reason that I’m here is because last summer I did a thing,” Clement said, smiling. That “thing” turned out to be a July 19,

2017 op-ed in *The Washington Post*, “I’m a scientist. I’m blowing the whistle on the Trump administration.”

He simultaneously filed a complaint and whistleblower disclosure form with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel.

In the op-ed, Clement described being moved from his post as director of the Office of Policy Analysis to a new role as senior adviser at the department’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

“June 15, [2017], I was one of about 50 senior department employees who received letters informing us of involuntary reassignments,” he wrote. “Citing a need to ‘improve talent development, mission delivery and collaboration,’ the letter informed me that I was reassigned to an unrelated job in the accounting office that collects royalty checks from

fossil fuel companies.”

Clement wrote he believed he was retaliated against by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “for speaking out publicly about the dangers that climate change poses to Alaska Native communities.”

“I had vastly overestimated the integrity and maturity of the incoming Trump administration,” Clement told the crowd. “What came next was an all out assault on the rules and policies and procedures, ethical norms, anything that had a whiff of climate change. It was like being led by a gang of fifth grade bullies embarrassed about their grades.”

Clement said the priorities of his new higher-ups was clear: Reverse anything the Obama administration did, minimize the work of the scientists, and shrink and

hobble the federal agencies.

“The only saving grace is that they’re not very good at it,” he said. “But, some of the blows are landing.”

Clement said the op-ed, which made him the first public whistleblower of the Trump administration, “led to quite a stir, a bit more than I was anticipating.”

“I don’t think I had any idea what I was getting into,” he said.

Clement was awarded The Joe A. Callaway Award for Civic Courage and resigned from public service in October 2017. Since then he has been on a national speaking tour and has received multiple awards for ethics, courage, and his dedication to the role of science in public policy. In addition to his role at Harvard, he is now an associate with the Stockholm Environmental Institute and a senior fellow with the Union of Concerned Scientists.

When the Office of the Inspector General released its scathing report on the reassignments April 10, they said they couldn’t determine if the reassignments were legal because the agency failed to keep proper records.

When asked by NUVO about his thoughts on the anonymous op-ed published Sept. 5 in *The New York Times*, “I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration,” Clement said he had “strong feelings about that.”

“In my view that is the Republican Party inoculating itself for when Trump really crashes and burns,” he said. “They’re trying to abdicate any responsibility for what’s going to happen. And this person and all the people they were describing are absolutely complicit in what’s happening.” ■



“It was like being led by a gang of fifth grade bullies embarrassed about their grades.”

—JOEL CLEMENT

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MICHAEL MARTONE KEEPS UP THE GOOD WORK

Noted Hoosier Writer Continues Genre Bending with 'The Moon Over Wapakoneta'

BY DAN GROSSMAN // DGROSSMAN@NUVO.NET

Michael Martone is an Indiana-born essayist, and fiction writer who likes to play with our notions of both time and history.

Martone published two books in 2018, including the book of essays *Broodings* and the just released *The Moon Over Wapakoneta: Fictions and Science Fictions from Indiana and Beyond*.

Both books reflect his affinity for genre-bending, whether he's writing a short story in the form of footnotes or in the form of tweets. But, as anybody who has ever seen him read his work will tell you, he also likes to make you laugh.

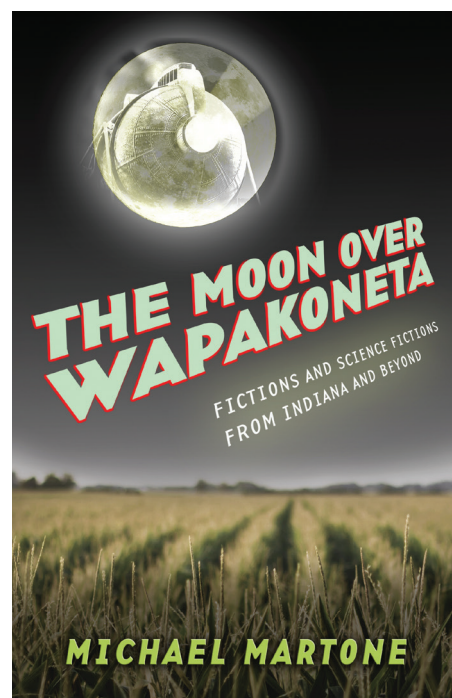
Martone will be appearing at the **Indiana Writers Center on Oct. 11**, during his fourth annual Double-Wide Tour of Indiana.

Particularly in Martone's older works, there's a strong sense of place.

In his short story "Everybody Watching and the Time Passing Like That," the narrator is James Dean's high school drama teacher, reminiscing about her fallen star student. In "Whistler's Father," the narrator is the actor in a living museum in the Old Fort in Fort Wayne, playing the part of the father of the renowned 19th century painter James Abbott McNeill Whistler.

Although "Whistler's Father" is not as a whole autobiographical, certain details ring true. Martone grew up in Fort Wayne, where he was born in 1955, and you can still see reenactments in the Old Fort, an iconic reminder of the old Midwestern frontier.

"The whole thing if you go to a place like that is try to get them to admit they like hamburgers even though in 1812 there were no hamburgers," says Martone. "I just kind of filed that away and later I understood



that in fact Whistler's father had been a boy about my age, in the actual fort of Fort Wayne, so it went from there. All I did was imagine that I played the role of the boy but I never worked for the Fort."

Even his science fiction has a strong sense of place. Lately Martone, who teaches fiction writing at the University of Alabama, has been inspired to take a stab at this genre.

Like just about everyone else these days, his students are less inclined to read realistic fiction, and more inclined to read *Harry Potter*, comic books, and science fiction.

"If I were to write science fiction, I told myself, I was going to have to write Indiana science fiction," Martone says. "The underlying theme is that nothing really big hap-



WHAT // Michael Martone and Jessica Reed book reading and signing
WHEN // Thursday, Oct. 11, 6 p.m.
WHERE // Indiana Writers Center, Circle City Industrial Complex
TICKETS // FREE

pens in Indiana. And in the future nothing really will happen either."

That was the genesis for stories like "Amish in Space" from his latest book, *The Moon Over Wapakoneta*.

"So the impulse was then to think, OK, here are the Amish, who have been essentially caught in the 19th century for all of the 20th century. What would the 25th century look like for the Amish?" Martone

asks. "And it really hasn't changed for them. They're on a spaceship now but they're still farming and having a belief in God that they're trying to hold steady as the world changes around them."

Another symptom of nothing big ever happening in Indiana is that, rather than being the birthplace of Barack Obama and John F. Kennedy, we get to claim Mike Pence and Dan Quayle, according to Martone.

Speaking of Quayle, it was a note from the former vice president that inspired Martone to write *Pensees* in 1994. The book was modeled after Blaise Pascal's classic philosophical work of the same name, sans the French accents, with Quayle as the first person narrator making short observations about his not-so-ordinary life.

"The fun part of writing a book about Dan Quayle or other famous living people is that you can use already what the audience has brought and either work with it or against it," says Martone.

But Quayle, who achieved a certain enduring notoriety for spelling potato with a "e" at the end, is no Blaise Pascal.

"When I wrote my first book, Quayle was my representative in congress when I lived in Fort Wayne," says Martone. "So as a good Hoosier, I sent my first book to Dan Quayle and he sent me a letter saying 'Thank you for the book. Your stories of Indiana are so amazing. Keep up the good work.'"

Martone took that letter and framed it in his office.

"Years later, when he was the vice president and I was looking for something to do, I thought, whoa, here's permission, *Keep up the good work*," he says. ■

HEARTLAND'S WIDE LENS

10 Female-centric Films at This Year's Festival

BY LAURA MCPHEE // L MCPHEE@NUVO.NET

The 27th Heartland Film Festival begins this week. The 11-day celebration features over 100 independent films and 200 visiting filmmakers.

Heartland has an excellent website where you'll find listings for all of the films including information about the cast and crew, screening times and venues. Head over to heartlandfilm.org to find out more.

In the meantime, we've had a chance to peruse all of the films on this year's schedule and can't wait to see as many as possible—starting with these 10 documentaries that focus on truly moving stories of remarkable women.

93QUEEN

Set in the enclave of Borough Park, Brooklyn, *93Queen* follows a group of Hasidic women smashing the patriarchy in their community by creating the first all-female volunteer ambulance corps in New York City. With unprecedented access, the film offers up a unique portrayal of a group of religious women taking matters into their own hands to change their community from within.

ADIOS AMOR: THE SEARCH FOR MARIA MORENO

The discovery of lost photographs sparks the search for a hero that history forgot—Maria Moreno. Years before Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta launched the United Farm Workers, Maria picked up the only weapon she had—her voice—and became an outspoken leader in an era when women were relegated to the background. (Screens with *The Hello Girls*)

EVA

As a 10-year-old “Mengele Twin,” Eva Kor survived the experiments of the Nazis. At 50, she launched the biggest manhunt in history. Now 84, she urgently circles the globe to promote the controversial lesson her jaw-drop-



2018 NOBEL PRIZE WINNER NADIA MURAD, THE SUBJECT OF *ON HER SHOULDERS* //

ping journey has taught: healing through forgiveness. Above all this diminutive woman stands as a triumph of the human spirit and an irrepressible voice for the voiceless.

FILM SCHOOL AFRICA

A Los Angeles casting director leaves her career to teach filmmaking to youth in an impoverished South African community. Originally intending to equip them with employment opportunities, she quickly discovers the therapeutic impact on her students as they process life events through their films. Emerging from a wide range of social backgrounds, the students find themselves bridging racial and cultural barriers as they become united through filmmaking.

THE HEAT: A KITCHEN (RE)EVOLUTION

An influx of women at the helm of restaurants, and a younger generation unwilling to submit to the brutal and sexist conditions once considered the norm, the rules of “kitchen culture” are being rewritten. *The Heat* takes viewers behind-the-scenes to meet pioneers

who broke through the glass ceiling, including Anne Sophie Pic of Maison Pic in Valence, France; Angela Hartnett of Murano; and award-winning New York chef Anita Lo.

THE HELLO GIRLS: AMERICA'S FIRST FEMALE SOLDIERS

During World War I, the US Army sent 223 women to France as telephone operators. They wore Army uniforms and swore Army oaths. By war's end, these women, known as the Hello Girls, had connected over 26 million calls. But when they returned home in 1920, they were told they weren't soldiers and weren't eligible for Army recognition or benefits. For 60 years, they fought the U.S. government for recognition. In 1977, they won. (Screens with *Adios Amour*)

MANKILLER

Wilma Mankiller became the Cherokee Nation's first woman Principal Chief in 1985. Despite tremendous obstacles, Mankiller's leadership enabled the Cherokee Nation to become one of the most economically and

culturally successful tribes in America. The film examines the legacy of the formidable Wilma Mankiller, reminds audiences of the true meaning of servant leadership, and serves as a wake-up call to take action for positive change.

ON HER SHOULDERS

At only 23 years old, Nadia Murad has survived the 2014 genocide of the Yazidis in Northern Iraq and escaped sexual slavery at the hands of ISIS. Last week, she was honored with the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. With deep compassion and a formal precision and elegance that matches Nadia's calm and steely demeanor, filmmaker Alexandria Bombach follows Murad as she fights to bring ISIS to justice and save her people from extinction.

THE REST I MADE UP

Maria Irene Fornes is one of America's greatest playwrights and most influential teachers. The visionary Cuban-American dramatist constructed astonishing worlds onstage, writing over 40 plays and winning nine Obie Awards. When she gradually stops writing due to dementia, an unexpected friendship with filmmaker Michelle Memran reignites her spontaneous creative spirit and triggers a decade-long collaboration that picks up where the pen left off.

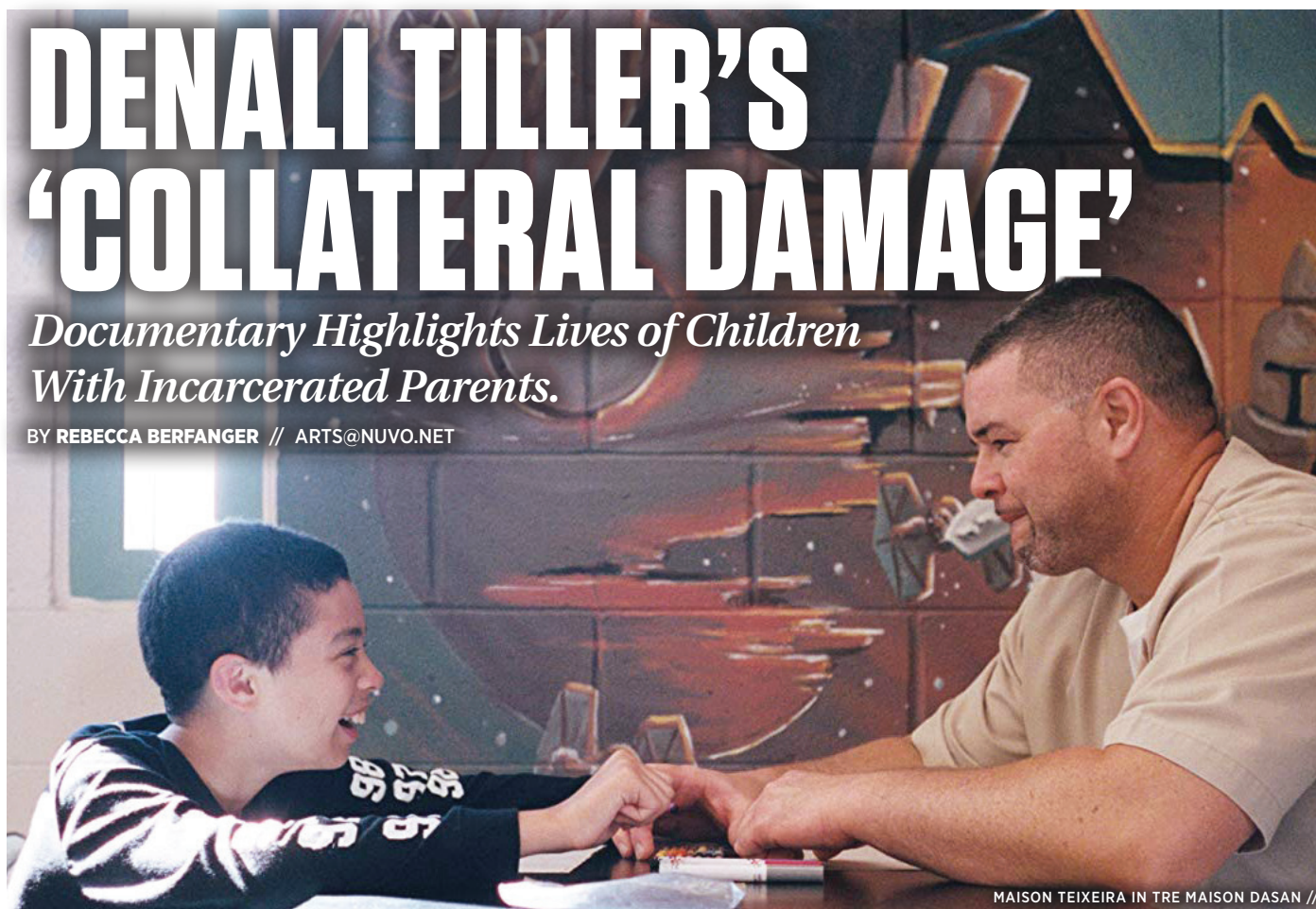
SEEING IS BELIEVING: WOMEN DIRECT

Focusing on inspiring and uplifting young female storytellers, this documentary asks “What is the broader role of storytelling in our society and how can women use filmed media as a unique opportunity to catalyze progress?” The film is bolstered by important insights from male and female-identifying filmmakers to show how collaboration, rather than oppression, can incentivize all genders to connect to our shared human experience. ■

DENALI TILLER'S 'COLLATERAL DAMAGE'

*Documentary Highlights Lives of Children
With Incarcerated Parents.*

BY REBECCA BERFANGER // ARTS@NUVO.NET



MAISON TEIXEIRA IN TRE MAISON DASAN //

Even though one in 14 American children have a parent in prison, rarely do filmmakers focus on the daily lives of inmates' families. Denali Tiller decided to make *Tre Maison Dasan* to tell the stories of three children from Rhode Island in their own words: Tre, 13, Maison, 11, and Dasan, 6.

The film is one of five documentary feature finalists at Heartland International Film Festival, Oct. 11-21 at various locations around town.

Tiller and Stern will also speak on a Social Impact Panel at 2 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Francis Ford Coppola Pavilion at AMC Castleton. She will be joined by Dr. Susan MacLaury, co-founder of Shine Global, and Richard Propes, local film critic, activist, and namesake of a new Heartland Social Impact Award.

We recently spoke with Tiller on the phone about this film, which is her first feature, and which is produced by Rebecca Stern.

WHAT // Heartland Film Festival
WHEN // Oct. 11-21
WHERE // AMC Castleton Square 14, AMC Showplace Traders Point 12, Newfields
TICKETS // \$12 for regular screenings, \$10 for members; various prices for special events, heartlandfilmfestival.org

NUVO: Why do you think the impact of the the criminal justice system on children is an important story to tell?

DENALI TILLER: It's common knowledge at this point that our criminal justice system in America is exorbitantly larger and more unjust than any country in the world. It's been a conversation since the '80s and '90s, especially when incarcerated populations were rising due to mandatory minimums and three strikes rules and other things that mostly affected Black and Brown folks in America. The conversation stayed cen-

tered around those who were incarcerated and victims of crimes, as it should. But if millions of people are incarcerated, then millions more are affected by that incarceration collaterally.

NUVO: Why did you choose to have the children tell their own stories?

TILLER: There aren't a lot of people that are really willing and able to listen to children. Their voices matter, and they have a way to articulate it, in a way that adults just can't. I wanted people to listen to them, people to hear them, and to empower these kids knowing that their voices matter and people are going to have to listen to them.

NUVO: How did you build a trust with the children and their families?

TILLER: I became interested in [asking the children], "What do you want me to see?" "Why are you important on this Earth

for any reason, not necessarily because you have a parent in prison?" And so the relationships and stories really grew ... We had over 300 hours of footage at the end of three years, and most of that is just playing with LEGOs, eating McDonald's, going to the park, birthday parties. We were meeting them on their level and asking them to lead the way, really including them in the process. They're actually listed as filmmakers in the film itself.

NUVO: How were you able to get this project off the ground?

TILLER: As an undergraduate at Rhode Island School of Design, I made a short film about one of the kids, Tre. Then when I graduated, I knew it was something much larger than that. ... As a first time female film director, no one is going to believe you can do anything. ... There were some very intimate and powerful moments in the short film that I think convinced people that I knew what I was doing. My first supporter was Chicken and Egg Pictures. They specifically support first-time female film directors.

NUVO: What's next for the film?

TILLER: As we're going to festivals, we're also connecting with community groups and organizations in the festival cities. So while we're in Indianapolis, we'll be connecting with different organizations and the Indiana Women's Prison to try and do some community screenings. Our big thing is getting it out there and having it be a tool for people.

NUVO: Are there systems of support for the children of incarcerated parents?

TILLER: That's what we're working on with the film, it's beyond just starting the conversation, but really creating these actionable steps and having people identify those actionable steps for themselves. I would say the support exists in pockets, but I still go into schools where teachers will say, "Oh no, I don't think I've ever had a child in my class with an incarcerated parent, in my 25 years of teaching." But statistically that can't be true. One in 14 kids experience parental incarceration. That's at least one in every classroom. ■



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INDY'S BEST PIZZA



Six Local Favorites We Keep Coming Back To

BY NUVO EDITORS // EDITORS@NUVO.NET

Pizza tends to elicit strong opinions. Everyone seems to have a favorite, whether it's a classic New York pizza or something more artisanal and modern.

Before World War II, pizza was virtually unknown in America outside the kitchens of Italian-American families. But GIs returning home from Italy brought their love of the tomato pie with them. Soon, newspapers and magazines began touting recipes and Italian restaurants began adding it to the menu.

Here in Indianapolis, it was the Italian Village Restaurant at 2343 N. Meridian that first began bragging about its pizza when it opened just before Christmas 1947. The owners were Don and Mary Mercuri who would go on to own several restaurants in

town, including the popular Chuck Wagon at 42nd and Fall Creek.

Don Mercuri immigrated from Italy as a child with his parents who came to Indianapolis in the 1920s. He married local girl Mary Velona in 1933.

Mary Velona Mercuri grew up in the Holy Rosary neighborhood and attended Manual High School and Herron School of Art before her marriage. Don served in the Army Medical Corps during WWII and on his return, the couple opened the original Italian Village restaurant on North Meridian Street.

Mary ran the restaurant while Don ran the couple's other business, Mercuri's Beauty Salon in Broad Ripple. The Mercuris owned the Italian Village until 1951 when it was sold to another Italian-American veteran of WWII,

Silvo "John" Macri who would go on to make the Italian Village restaurant a legend in Indianapolis before it closed in 1994.

By the 1950s, teenagers had claimed pizza and it was soon a "late-night" favorite at drive-ins around town in addition to sit-down restaurants with Italian flavors.

The first "chain" of pizza places in Indianapolis is probably Pizza Pic-up which boasted three locations by 1956—34th and Illinois, just south of the Ritz Theatre; 22nd and Meridian, a block south of Italian Village; and a third at Rural and Washington Streets, just east of downtown. Pizza Pic-up boasted "10 varieties of Italian Pizza Pie with imported Italian ingredients" as well as late hours and cocktails.

Closer to the fairgrounds, Merrill's Hi-Deck-

er drive-in was selling its original Pizza Decker: "a sandwich that combines tangy Italian pizza with hamburger" for only 50 cents.

Speaking of the fairgrounds, pizza was voted one of the best foods at the 1954 Indiana State Fair. And Iaria's on South College just may be the oldest establishment serving pizza in the city. As early as 1955, the Fletcher Place favorite was advertising "pizza pie" along with their "famous Italian spaghetti" and "Raviola Dinners."

While we don't argue much about the authentic Italian-ness of pizza much anymore, everyone still has a favorite—including the NUVO editorial team. In honor of Indy Pizza Week (Oct. 15-22), we've narrowed down the best pizza in Indianapolis to six favorites. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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www.byrnespizza.com
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www.drakescomeplay.com
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GOODFELLAS PIZZERIA
www.goodfellaspizzeria.com
914 Broad Ripple Ave. • 545 Massachusetts Ave.

☐ **Zucchini Gagootz**
A "crazy in the head" Italian or a delightful yummy hanging squash? Thinly sliced zucchini layers rest on a bed of 100% whole milk mozzarella cheese, sprinkled with airy, crisp Panko breadcrumbs, fresh parsley and finished with a dusting of parmesan. This pie is GAGOOTZ!

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☐ **Frankie Pickles**

Spicy pepperoni paired with zesty dill pickle chips finished with a buffalo ranch drizzle. Pickles and pizza is not traditional, but it packs a punch in flavor, and will leave your taste buds watering for that next bite.

HOTBOX PIZZA

www.hotboxpizza.com

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www.eskenazihealth.edu/cafesoleil

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One slice of hand tossed pizza with two breadsticks and a fountain beverage for \$4.99

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www.michaelangelosbistro.com

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www.nobleromans.com

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Deep-dish pepperoni or cheese sliders served with a side of marinara for dipping. Orders of 4 or 12 half off.

☐ **Pizza Margherita**

Traditional or deep-dish crust, rosemary infused olive oil, mozzarella, fresh basil leaves and tomato slices. Medium for \$6.50

☐ **Uncle Sal's Spicy Salami**

Traditional or deep-dish crust, rosemary infused

olive oil, shredded provolone, Genoa salami, white onion slivers, roasted red bell pepper, crushed red chili pepper flakes. Medium for \$6.50

☐ **Sleeps with the Fishes**

Traditional or deep-dish crust, rosemary infused olive oil, anchovies, roasted red bell pepper, black olive slices. Medium for \$6.50

Medium traditional crust is 12" (8 slices). Medium deep-dish is 10" x 8" (8 slices). Use promo code IndyPizzaWeek when ordering.

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www.northsidenook.com

6513 N. College Ave.

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Wild mushrooms, spinach, fresh mozzarella, ricotta, caramelized shallots, garlic coulis, creamy spinach sauce

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Signature tomato sauce, country ham, red onion, pineapple, jalapeno, house blended cheese

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OUR LOCAL FAVORITES



BAZBEAUX

bazbeaux.com

Now one of the oldest pizza restaurants in the city, Bazbeaux Pizza opened in Broad Ripple on May 12, 1986. Having since opened two more locations, you don't have to travel far to get a city staple.

Named after a Florentine court jester, this NUVO Best of Indy perennial favorite is known for its signature thin crust pizzas and creative topping combinations. With options that vary from the exotic to traditional, Bazbeaux offers up a little something for everyone, even providing gluten-free and vegan customers with plenty of options to choose from.

Stop by at lunch and try Bazbeaux's best pizzas by the slice. After indulging in a house salad and some of Bazbeaux's award-winning garlic bread, we suggest exploring the restaurant's trademark pies like the Colossus, the Garden, and the Pizza Alla Quattro Formaggio. If you really want to impress your friends, order the Tchoupitoulas. It's topped with Cajun shrimp, roasted red pepper, green pepper, red onion, andouille sausage and fresh garlic. Plus, it's really fun to say.

—SETH JOHNSON

options that include bread sticks as well as spinach, artichoke, and cheese bread. Customers can opt to make their own pizza, choosing from a wide variety of meats, veggies, and sauces. Jockamo also offers an outstanding variety of signature pizza options as well, each of which varying in adventurousness.

For example, the Slaughterhouse Five is a pizza topped with pepperoni, ham, sausage, bacon, and sliced steak, while The Bollywood is a pizza topped with a house-made spicy masala sauce, chicken, green onion, peppadew peppers, fresh garlic, goat cheese, and a coconut finish. There's also an amazing Thai Pizza featuring peanut sauce, chicken, carrots, onion, red pepper and topped with gouda.

—SETH JOHNSON

DONATELLO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

donatellositalian.com

A small, family owned establishment on Carmel's Main Street, Donatello's also made our list of favorites—and not just for the pizza. We like the ambience, the service, and pasta just as well. Maybe we've seen too many movies, but this is the type of place you can imagine John Travolta's Tony Manero (or Vinnie Barbarino) stuffing his face.

And how's this for history: owner Patrick Aasen started his restaurant career as a chef at Macri's Italian Village more decades ago than he'd care to admit. Along with wife Beth and oldest son Adam, Aasen continues the tradition of Italian-American dishes Indianapolis has loved since the late 1940s.

On a recent visit, I started with a Caesar salad that was one of the finest salads I've had north of Tijuana—where the Caesar salad was first concocted. While the restaurant

JOCKAMO UPPER CRUST

jockamopizza.com

Since first opening its flagship Irvington location in 2007, Jockamo Upper Crust Pizza has expanded and added additional shops in Greenwood and Lawrence. The family-owned restaurant is best known for mouth-watering pies characterized by delectably flaky crust.

In addition to a selection of salads, the restaurant offers several satisfying starter

had quite a few customers at 8 p.m., entrees arrived in no time. My 12-inch pizza arrived on its baking tray looking and smelling just like a fresh-baked pizza should. After it cooled, I took a bite and it more than met my expectations. It had crispy crust, ample onions, the right sauce to cheese ratio, the right amount of grease.

I also enjoyed much of my dining companion's scampi. The shrimps were huge. The light sauce tasted of butter, white wine, and parsley. The linguine wasn't overcooked. It was subtle, not bland. I could've eaten two plates of the stuff. It was the perfect accompaniment to a Saturday night pizza.

—DAN GROSSMAN

GOODFELLAS

goodfellaspizzeria.com/indianapolis

If you're looking for New York pie in the Circle City, you're in luck. Goodfellas Pizzeria has brought all the thin-crust goodness of the Bronx straight to Indianapolis where you can find it on Mass Ave and in Broad Ripple.

One of our favorites is Jimmy the Gent, a Greek masterpiece that uses olive oil in lieu of red sauce and is topped with bacon, olives, garlic, spinach, and feta cheese. The use of oil gives the pizza a much lighter feel that's perfect for quenching the munchies without weighing the whole thing down.

If traditional pies are more your dish, the name-sake pie, "The Goodfella," will get your mouth to water with some of the best Italian sausage we've had the pleasure of tasting along with pepperoni, beef, and bacon. A meat lover's fantasy.

Speedy service, a friendly staff, and plenty of indoor and outdoor seating make this a no-brainer stop for some of the best slices Indy has to offer. And, make time to enjoy a drink at the appropriately named Wiseguy's Lounge in back; it hosts one of the best whiskey selections in the city.

—LARRY KONOWALIK

HOT BOX

hotboxpizza.com

There are ample choices for delivery of

good pizza in Indianapolis, but we tend to favor our old favorite Hot Box. A local franchise, there are now more than a dozen Hot Box locations around Central Indiana, meaning there is no excuse to pay someone else to bring you pizza when you're too lazy or it's too cold to go outdoors.

The Hot Chick is top of our list. Chicken, tons of Wisconsin cheddar, jalapenos, and Buffalo sauce make this a meal in itself. But we're also a bit crazy about the Pesto Mambo and its artichoke hearts, feta, broccoli, and pesto sauce topping. There are several veggie options we've tried and liked, plus some terrific pies heavy on meat. In all cases, you can get an extra large one for under \$20.

And don't forget the stix! Hot Box has some of the best breadsticks around, and at under \$5 for a bag of six, you'll be glad you did.

—LAURA MCPHEE

PIZZOLOGY CRAFT PIZZA & PUB

pizzologyindy.com

If you're looking for a craft pizza experience, Neal Brown's Pizzology is where you want to go. Brown is one of the city's top chefs, and the same care he brings to sushi at Ukiyo he also brings to the pie at Pizzology.

Emphasis is on fresh and local ingredients here, so start with the Grilled

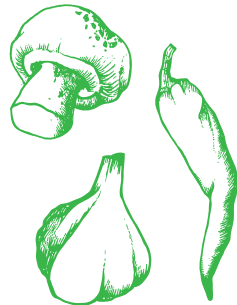
Romaine appetizer featuring grilled romaine heart, fresh grape tomatoes, shallot, housemade mozzarella, and yogurt-herb dressing from Traders Point Creamery. If you like seafood, the Grilled Octopus is stellar: grilled Spanish octopus braised with lemon and herbs, San marzano tomato, capers,

lemon, and bagna cauda.

But you're here for the pizza, right? Meat lovers should try the Homemade Sausage Pizza that, in addition to the sausage, comes with mildly spicy peppadew peppers, fresh oregano, and Parmesan Reggiano. Also, don't miss the Vesuvius Pizza featuring smokey roasted red pepper sauce, Italian-style sausage, green peppers, fresh mozzarella, and provolone.

Pizzology is pricey, but well worth it.

—ROB BURGESS



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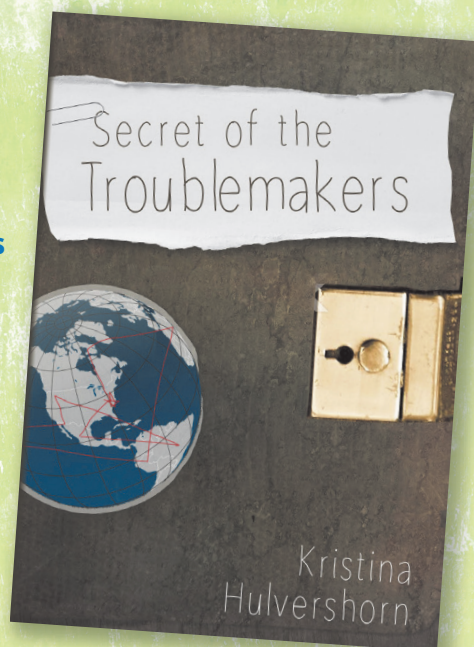
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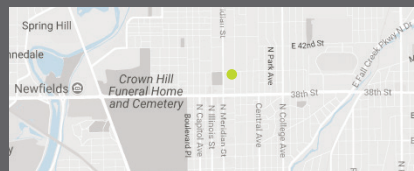
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SIRIUS BLVCK IS BACK

Indianapolis Rapper Returns with New Album 'Major Threat'

BY SETH JOHNSON // SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET

It would be hard to have a conversation about Indianapolis music in the past five years without mentioning the name Sirius Blvck.

An eternal champion of the Circle City, Blvck (born Nicolas Askren) has amassed an impressive catalog of releases over the course of his career, while also performing in the Naptown hip-hop juggernaut Ghost Gun Summer. After dropping *Nxghtcrawl* in 2016, the versatile emcee returns this year with his latest album *Major Threat*.

Although its official online release date will be on Oct. 31, Naptown fans can grab *Major Threat* early when Blvck returns for an album release show Saturday, Oct. 16 at HI-FI. Unlike previous Sirius Blvck albums, *Major Threat* will be available on vinyl via U.S. label Near Mint. Additionally, Blvck's show at HI-FI marks a celebratory return

home, as he and his family have decided to move back to Indianapolis after a brief stint of living out in Tacoma, Washington.

"I wanted to come out here [to Washington] and do what I needed to do, and I did that," Blvck says. "Now, I get to come back and just continue to build on what we've already been doing."

Much like with previous releases, Blvck has put a lot of thought into *Major Threat* and its overall delivery. "*Major Threat* has been in the works probably as long as *Light in the Attic* or *Nightcrawl* were in the works," Blvck says. "I had the names for all three of those albums for quite a few years and slowly but surely released them." Much like he does with other records, Blvck also had a grand vision in mind for how he wanted *Major Threat* to sound.

"I had always wanted to do something

WHAT // Sirius Blvck's *Major Threat* Release Party

WHEN // Saturday, Oct. 13

WHERE // HI-FI

TICKETS // HIFIndy.com

with shorter songs—something that was a little bit out of the norm from what I usually do," he says. "[I wanted to do] something that was a little more modern on the production side."

To help accomplish this sound, Blvck teamed up with Bobby Tryll, who produced most of the songs on *Major Threat*. "Bobby Tryll started sending me beats that fit the *Major Threat* vibe I wanted to go for," Blvck says. In addition to his choice in production, Blvck also aimed to shift his approach to rapping on *Major Threat*.

"With a lot of my albums, I like to really delve deep emotionally and take you where I'm at and through what I'm going through," Blvck says. "But with this album, I reached out and stepped outside of myself. Like with 'Vonnegut.' I really wanted to make the song more in-your-face and more susceptible to a larger audience."

In addition to his approach, Blvck admits the content on *Major Threat* is a little darker than usual.

"The album itself is somewhat dark in a lot of different ways," he says. "A lot of my albums have a dark undertone, but this is dark in another way. It's not necessarily dark sonically. But lyrically, the direction the album takes from beginning to end gets sadder as it goes."

In reflecting on where *Major Threat* falls in terms of his artistic progression, Blvck sees the album as a stepping-stone into the future.

"Major Threat is the destruction of my destructive side," he says. "The major threat is me—I'm a threat to myself. So it's just another way to rebirth myself, shed this skin, and start fresh."

He continues, "I've really figured out who I am in the past year, just in terms of what I like, what I don't like, what I'll put up with, and what I won't put up with. Being able to define my terms has kind of helped me figure out where the fuck I want to go next."

As for the decision to press *Major Threat* to vinyl, Blvck explains that the circumstances were just ideal this time around.

"I've had opportunities in the past to do vinyl," he says. "With some of those opportunities, we even got pretty far in the process, but it just ended up not working out, partly because I wasn't satisfied with what I would be getting out of the deal. Going into this, I let them [Near Mint] know what I wanted right off the bat, and they've been amazing."

In looking ahead to his Indy return, Blvck admits he's excited to come back home again.

"All of my friends, all of my experiences, and everything that I know is based out of Indianapolis," he says. "Indianapolis is my home. No matter what I do, I'm always going to find my way back there." ■



BAHAMAS DIGGS DEEPER ON 'EARTHTONES'

Sold-Out HI-FI Show This Week

BY **SETH JOHNSON** // SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET

BAHAMAS // PHOTO BY REYNARD LI

In recent years, Afie Jurvanen has released rousing renditions of songs like “Don’t You Want Me” by The Human League and “Whole Wide World” by Wreckless Eric. When asked what he looks for in a tune to cover, the Canadian musician gives a response reflective of his overall approach as a songwriter.

“In general, I gravitate to songs that are sad but full of love—I would describe my songs that way too,” says Jurvanen, who makes music under the name Bahamas. “Any song that has that balance hits the mark.”

On **Thursday, Oct. 11**, Bahamas will visit Indy for a sold-out show at **HI-FI**. Before-hand, we caught up with him for an interview discussing his 2018 album *Earthtones*.

NUVO: Tell me about the music scene you grew up around in Canada.

AFIE JURVANEN: I grew up in a small town outside of Toronto. After high school, I moved to Toronto. That was the late ‘90s/early ‘00s, and indie-rock was having a bit of a resurgence. There were just so many bands that came out of that. Bands like Broken Social Scene were formed in and around that time. That was really inspiring to a lot of people and drew a lot of people in. I very quickly started doing my own music.

NUVO: Speaking of Broken Social Scene, you played in Feist’s band before starting your solo career. How did you first meet Feist?

JURVANEN: I was in another band, and we were opening for her. We did a tour in the U.S. and another tour in Canada. Over the course of the tour, she’d ask me to sit in on one song. So at the end of their set, I’d come up and play guitar on a song. And then, it’d be two songs. By the end of the tour, I was just playing the whole show. The bands were cross-pollinating, and there was just great camaraderie.

Shortly after that, I was on tour in Europe, and she was making *The Reminder*. She asked me to come by, and I played on a few songs on that record. When she was putting a band together, she called me, and of course,

I said yes. I got to travel all around the world and play so many cool venues. We did so many interesting things, and that record was obviously pretty huge for her.

NUVO: Your latest record *Earthtones* has a soulful sound to it. Was there a reason for that at all? Were you listening to a lot of soul music when you wrote the record?

JURVANEN: I went through a period where I was listening to what I guess you’d call the classics, like Neil Young, Bob Dylan, and guitar-based songwriting. I really love that, for obvious reasons, and I made records that were more acoustic. But in the last several years, I just started listening to more modern music: more hip-hop and more R&B. To my ear, there are not very many good

rock bands—it all sounds pretty derivative. Of course, there are exceptions. But if you look at pop music in general, there’s no real representation there by guitar-based music or singer-songwriters. It’s mostly R&B and hip-hop, and I would say that’s largely just because the quality is so high.

I wasn’t going to make a hip-hop record or a reggae record. But [it got me thinking], “How do I incorporate some of those elements.” Really, it’s just choosing to work with the right musicians.

NUVO: That being said, can you elaborate on why you chose to work with bassist Pino Palladino and drummer James Gadson on *Earthtones*?

JURVANEN: Pino is the obvious choice for virtually anybody. He literally is the best bass player in the world. I don’t think you’ll find a bass player who would disagree with that. He has the ability to play any genre of music. He’s not tied to one thing. That was a longshot for me. But I just said, “Let’s call him and see if he’s available,” and he was.

James Gadson is the same in that he’s open to anything, and he plays a bunch of different genres. In his case, he has a real distinctive style. The way he plays the hi-hats is so unique. I thought, “Man, that would just be a lethal combination.” **N**

“To my ear, there are not very many good rock bands—it all sounds pretty derivative.”

— AFIE JURVANEN

SOUNDCHECK

BY IAN MCPHEE



WEDNESDAY // 10.10

SESSA, Gateway, Cokebottle Tester at State Street Pub

State Street's got a wonderfully weird lineup for Wednesday night with electronic experimentalists Cokebottle Tester, who sound like a blender fucked a Game Boy; and Gateway, who sound like a phonograph fucked a lightning bolt. They're opening the show for SESSA (best known as the bassist of world-psych trio Yonatan Gat) who is kicking off his first solo U.S. tour.



THURSDAY // 10.11

HEY GUY at Black Circle Brewing Co.

You may know Boris Pelekh as the guitarist of the purple-wearing, gypsy-punk legend that is Gogol Bordello. Or, possibly from his work with the Nickelodeon duo Nat and Alex Wolff. Probably the first one, though. His new band HEY GUY is screaming through town for a stop at Black Circle Brewing on Thursday and they're playing with none other than Wife Patrol and Chives. So, fuck yeah.



SUNDAY // 10.14

Darsombra and Midwest Contraband at The Melody Inn

Alright, psychonauts. If you're lookin' to transcend to the ethereal plane of sonic existence, don't miss Darsombra at The Melody on Sunday. They're the kind of band that makes you truly believe NASA found evidence of THC on a meteorite fragment earlier this year. Midwest Contraband will open the show and confiscate your encyclopedias, dictionaries and common sense.



TUESDAY // 10.16

Fleetwood Mac at Bankers Life Fieldhouse

The rumors are true, Fleetwood Mac is hitting the Bankers Life stage on Tuesday and they've got a new member. Mike Campbell of The Heartbreakers has replaced Lindsey Buckingham on guitar and the band is even said to be opening shows on the tour with a Tom Petty classic. To be honest, I just can't wait to hear him shred on "The Chain" after the bass solo.



WEDNESDAY // 10.17

Smarter Scene Vol. 4: Building an Inclusive Scene

at Square Cat Vinyl

The fourth installment of Musical Family Tree's Smarter Scene series is at Square Cat Vinyl on Wednesday and will focus on how we can build and maintain a more inclusive music scene in Indianapolis. Discussions will be led by local artists Tatjana Rebelle, Mina Keohane, Stacia Moon, and Elysia Smith. Show up and be heard. (And seriously, check out musicalfamilytree.com)



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WEDNESDAY // 10.10

Snow Patrol w/ Dan Mangan
Murat Theatre at Old National
Centre 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$50, all-ages

An Evening with Allan Rayman
Hi-Fi 8 p.m. \$22, 21+

Avenue Indy Jazz Quintet,
Rachel Caswell The Jazz Kitchen
7 p.m. \$10, 21+

Dilettante : Pint Night Spins
Pioneer 9 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

A Girl Named Genny
Melody Inn 7 p.m. \$5, 21+

THURSDAY // 10.11

Shoreline Mafia
Emerson Theater 6:30 p.m.
\$17 and up, all-ages

Andrew Leahey & The Homestead
w/ Luke Knight
Square Cat Vinyl
7 p.m. \$7, all-ages

Altered Thurzdaze w/ Virtual Riot
The Mousetrap
9 p.m. \$13, 21+

Orchard Keepers, Red Mouth,
Wampus Milk Daddies
State Street Pub
9 p.m. \$5, 21+

Ten Foot Pole
Melody Inn 8 p.m. \$7, 21+

Paul Nelson Band
Slippery Noodle Inn
8:30 p.m. \$5, 21+

FRIDAY // 10.12

Lauv w/ Charlotte Lawrence
Egyptian Room at Old National
Centre 8 p.m. \$25, all-ages

Stryper The Vogue 8 p.m. \$28, 21+

Jennie Devoe
The Rathskeller 8 p.m. \$25, 21+

Wreckage on the Rocks:
A Rap/Rock Experience
Deluxe at Old National Centre
7:30 p.m. \$20, all-ages

Bigger Than Elvis

Radio Radio 8 p.m. \$5, 21+

New Faces Night w/
Giant Not Giant & Cole
Woodruff Music (Solo)
Hi-Fi 8 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

Rockstead w/ Indyca
Square Cat Vinyl 8 p.m.
\$5, all-ages

Bumpin' Ugliers & Midwest Hype
The Mousetrap
9 p.m. \$8, 21+

Eric Gales The Jazz Kitchen
7:30 p.m. \$35, 21+

SATURDAY // 10.13

Rainbow Kitten Surprise w/
Caroline Rose Egyptian Room
at Old National Centre
8 p.m. \$30, all-ages

4U: A Symphonic
Celebration of Prince
Murat Theatre at Old
National Centre 7:30 p.m.
\$39.50 and up, all-ages

Sirius Black, White Moms, Kiddo,
GRXZZ, Swan Laak, Knags
Hi-Fi 8 p.m. \$10, 21+

Shiny Penny w/ Yam Haus
Square Cat Vinyl 8 p.m.
\$5, all-ages

Of the Trees w/ Slave,
Magnetic & Frozen Turtle
The Mousetrap
9 p.m. \$10, 21+

M.D.C., The Independents,
Elected Officials,
Children of October
Melody Inn
9 p.m. \$12, 21+

Rachel Caswell CD Release Party
The Jazz Kitchen
7 p.m. \$12, 21+

Cream vs Led Zeppelin
Radio Radio
8 p.m. \$7, 21+

SUNDAY // 10.14

Blue October Egyptian Room
at Old National Centre
8 p.m. \$30, all-ages

An Evening With Glorietta
Hi-Fi 7 p.m. \$22, 21+

Bill Lancton The Jazz Kitchen
7 p.m. \$15, 21+

Blossom Hall, Autumn Androids
State Street Pub
7 p.m. \$5, 21+

MC Chris Hoosier Dome
7 p.m. \$20, all-ages

MONDAY // 10.15

Big Data w/ Castlecomer, Fitness
Hi-Fi 7 p.m. \$20, 21+

Particle The Mousetrap
9 p.m. \$12, 21+

Django Knight Acoustic
Slippery Noodle Inn
7:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

TUESDAY // 10.16

An Evening With Pete Yorn
Hi-Fi 7 p.m. \$35, 21+

LSD and the Search For
God // Heaven Square Cat Vinyl
7 p.m. \$12, all-ages

Droids Attack, Druids, Astral Mass
Black Circle Brewing Company
7pm. \$5, 21+

NRVOUS, Ashes, Regna Racer
State Street Pub
8 p.m. \$5, 21+

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): In his book *The Snow Leopard*, Peter Matthiessen describes his quest to glimpse the elusive and rarely seen creature in the Himalayas. "Its uncompromising yellow eyes, wired into the depths of its unfathomable spirit," he writes, give it a "terrible beauty" that is "the very stuff of human longing." He loves the snow leopard so much, he says, that it is the animal he "would most like to be eaten by." I bring this up, Aries, because now would be a good time, astrologically speaking, for you to identify what animal you would most like to be eaten by. In other words, what creature would you most like to learn from and be inspired by? What beautiful beast has the most to give you?

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Richard Nelson is an anthropologist who has lived for years with the indigenous Koyukon people of Alaska. He lauds their "careful watching of the same events in the same place" over long periods of time, noting how this enables them to cultivate a rich relationship with their surroundings that is incomprehensible to us civilized Westerners. He concludes, "There may be more to learn by climbing the same mountain a hundred times than by climbing a hundred different mountains." I think that's excellent counsel for you to employ in the coming weeks.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "It is sad that unless you are born a god, your life, from its very beginning, is a mystery to you," writes Gemini author Jamaica Kincaid. I disagree with her because she implies that if you're human, your life is a complete and utter mystery; whereas my observation has been that for most of us, our lives are no more than 80 percent mystery. Some lucky ones have even deciphered as much as sixty-five percent, leaving only 35 percent mystery. What's your percentage? I expect that between now and Nov. 1, you can increase your understanding by at least 10 percent.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): You Cancerians may not possess the mental dexterity of Virgos or the acute cleverness of Gemini, but you have the most soulful intelligence in the zodiac. Your empathetic intuition is among your greatest treasures. Your capacity to feel deeply gives you the ability to intensely understand the inner workings of life. Sometimes you take this subtle acumen for granted. It may be hard for you to believe that others are stuck at a high-school level of emotional skill when you have the equivalent of a Ph. D. Everything I just said is a prelude to my advice. In the coming weeks, I doubt you can solve your big riddle through rational analysis. Your best strategy is to deeply experience all the interesting feelings that are rising up in you.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do you ever experience stress from having to be so interesting and attractive all the time? It may on occasion feel like an onerous responsibility to be the only artful egomaniac amidst swarms of amateur egomaniacs. I have a suggestion that might help. Twice a year, celebrate a holiday I call Dare to Be Boring Week. During these periods of release and relief, you won't live up to people's expectations that you keep them amused and excited. You'll be free to be solely focused on amusing and exciting yourself, even if that means they'll think you're dull. Now is an excellent time to observe Dare to Be Boring Week.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A Chinese proverb says, "Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are." I'm happy to let you know that you are currently more receptive to this truth than maybe you have ever been. Furthermore, you have more power than usual to change your life in ways that incorporate this truth. To get started, meditate on the hypothesis that you can get more good work done if you're calm and composed than if you're agitated and trying too hard.

HOMEWORK: Name 10 personal possessions you'd put in a time capsule to be opened by your descendants in 200 years. Testify at Freewillastrology.com.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): My astrological analysis suggests that life is conspiring to render you extra excited and unusually animated and highly motivated. I bet that if you cooperate with the natural rhythms, you will feel stirred, playful, and delighted. So how can you best use this gift? How might you take maximum advantage of the lucky breaks and bursts of grace that will be arriving? Here's my opinion: be more focused on discovering possibilities than making final decisions. Feed your sense of wonder and awe rather than your drive to figure everything out. Give more power to what you can imagine than to what you already know. Being practical is fine as long as you're idealistically practical.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): How far is it from the Land of the Lost to the Land of the Lost and Found? What's the best route to take? Who and what are likely to provide the best help? If you approach those questions with a crisply optimistic attitude, you can gather a wealth of useful information in a relatively short time. The more research you do about the journey, the faster it will go and the more painless it will be. Here's another fertile question to meditate on: is there a smart and kind way to give up your attachment to a supposedly important thing that is actually quite burdensome?

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In her only novel, *Save Me the Waltz*, Zelda Fitzgerald described her main character like this: "She quietly expected great things to happen to her, and no doubt that's one of the reasons why they did." That's a bit too much like fairy-tale wisdom for me to endorse it unconditionally. But I do believe it may sometimes be a valid hypothesis—especially for you Sagittarians in the coming months. Your faith in yourself and your desire to have interesting fun will be even more important than usual in determining what adventures you will have. I suggest you start now to lay the groundwork for this exhilarating challenge.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Russian philosopher George Gurdjieff taught that most people are virtually sleepwalking even during the day. He said we're permanently stuck on automatic pilot, prone to reacting in mechanical ways to every event that comes our way. Psychology pioneer Sigmund Freud had an equally dim view of us humans. He believed that it's our normal state to be neurotic; that most of us are chronically out of sync with our surroundings. Now here's the good news, Capricorn. You're at least temporarily in a favorable position to refute both men's theories. In fact, I'll boldly predict that in the next three weeks you'll be as authentic and awake and at peace as you've been in years.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the late 19th century, American botanist George Washington Carver began to champion the nutritional value of peanuts. His influence led to the plant being grown and used more extensively. Although he accomplished many other innovations, including techniques for enhancing depleted soils, he became famous as the Peanut Man. Later in life, he told the story that while young he had prayed to God to show him the mystery of the universe, but God turned him down, saying, "That's for me alone." So George asked God to show him the mystery of the peanut, and God agreed, saying, "that's more nearly your size." The coming weeks will be a great time for you to seek a comparable revelation, Aquarius.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Every year, people discard 3.3 million pounds of chewing gum on the streets of Amsterdam. A company named Gumdrop has begun to harvest that waste and use it to make soles for its new brand of sneakers, Gumshoe. A spokesperson said the intention was to "create a product people actually want from something no one cares about." I'd love it if you were inspired by this visionary act of recycling, Pisces. According to my reading of the cosmic omens, you now have exceptional powers to transform something you don't want into something you do want.

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